

GREETINGS FROM SENATOR LINDA EVANS PARLETTE

Weekly E-mail Update

WASHINGTON STATE 12TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



June 7, 2005

It is great to be home. The legislative session ended Sunday, April 24th, and my car was packed with the first load so I could leave that night to arrive at 12:45 in the morning on Monday! An accident in the Fort Lewis area slowed me down, but I arrived safely!

If you recall, during an election year legislators are limited as to what they can send out to their constituents. That was the case for me last interim. This year, however, because the Washington state "ethics laws" allow it, I am going to send a monthly "In Touch" e-mail update to give you a glimpse into this legislator's life.

Here is a list of just a few of the meetings and events I have participated in. Please understand I do not always say "yes" because I wouldn't have a life if I did!

☑ **BeeBe Springs meeting in Chelan.** I helped secure funding in the capital budget this year for a project that has a goal of providing a terminal fishery near the BeeBe Bridge in the future and also allow for wildlife watching.

☑ **Methow Valley Irrigation District ribbon-cutting ceremony.** Bob Lohn, our region's director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and state Attorney General Rob McKenna also attended. I helped secure funding in the capital budget to work on the west end of the canal to help make it more efficient.

☑ **Washington Medical Society May dinner.** The focus of the meeting was Initiative 330, a medical malpractice ballot measure sponsored by the Washington State Medical Association.

☑ **The 86th annual Apple Blossom Festival,** which included riding in the parade at the Classy Chassy and the Apple Blossom Parade. (This year's Apple Blossom royalty visited the Legislature in Olympia on April 13, meeting with Gov. Gregorie, speaking to the full Senate and being honored with a Senate resolution that I sponsored.)

☑ **Local Retired Teachers Association** -- a speaking engagement.

☑ Olympia presentation for the **Terry Husseman Sustainable Schools Award Ceremony** to honor Leavenworth's Icicle River Middle School, which received \$1,500 and Entiat's Paul Rumburg Elementary School, which was awarded \$700. This money, awarded by the Department of Ecology, is to assist with costs involved in initial startup of basic environmental sustainability programs or improvements of programs or projects that move them closer to sustainability. Later that day I attended the governor's bill signing ceremony for Senate Bill 6050, a measure I prime-sponsored that provides funding help for many financially struggling cities and counties throughout Washington.

☑ Participation in Chelan (my hometown) High School's program **"The Time is Now Celebration,"** an educational day of the benefits of good health habits.

☑ Olympia attendance for a meeting of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC), of which I am a member. The Internet link is <http://www1.leg.wa.gov/JLARC/> Of local interest may be the JLARC review of Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fire Suppression Policy Study - Preliminary Report

☑ **Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) Scholarship reception.** What a treat to be present as the winners from the 12th Legislative District were honored -- Kodi Jasper (Wenatchee High School), Andrew Hemphill (Wenatchee High School/Skill Center) and Karen Monroe (Wenatchee Valley College).

☑ During the session, I was invited to visit several school classrooms and I had the opportunity to visit them this past month. One student from Wilson Creek shadowed me for a whole week in Olympia. I enjoyed visiting her school and listening to her senior project presentation. It is invigorating to be around young inquiring minds!

☑ Meetings with both the Chelan and Douglas county commissioners

☑ **Ovations! Wenatchee Valley College's Premier student and alumni 65th anniversary celebration** was held on June 3rd on the Wells House lawn. I had the honor of being the emcee for this special evening of food, fun, and community.

Judge upholds election of Gov. Gregoire

Chelan County Superior Court Judge John Bridges on Monday upheld the election of Gov. Christine Gregoire, dismissing a Republican lawsuit and soundly rejecting claims that wrongdoing, fraud and felon voters robbed Dino Rossi of the election.

Judge Bridges said Republicans did not meet the burden of proof for nullifying an election. He said there was evidence of irregularities, "as there appears to be in every election," but "not clear and convincing evidence that improper conduct or irregularities procured Ms. Gregoire's election to the office of governor."

The judge said there was no evidence that ballots were changed, the ballot box stuffed or that lawful votes were removed from either candidate's ballot box.

In a ruling that took nearly one hour to read, Judge Bridges said he saw no evidence of fraud and rejected Republicans' proposed method for apportioning illegal votes. The judge said Gregoire would have won even if he had applied the Republican theory of subtracting illegal votes from each candidate. He said the Republicans' proposed method of proportional deduction was not based on sound science. The method would have subtracted illegal felon votes from both candidates' vote totals, dividing them in any given precinct by the same percentage as the overall vote in that precinct.

"An election such as this should not be overturned because one judge picks a number and applies a proportional deduction analysis," Judge Bridges said. "To do so within the context of the facts of this case would constitute the ultimate act of judicial egotism and judicial activism."

After the verdict, Republicans said they have not yet decided whether to appeal the ruling, even though they had said before that an appeal was certain. They have 10 days under the law to appeal.

The verdict by Judge Bridges came two weeks after the court trial began in Wenatchee. Closing arguments were made last Friday.

Shortly after this ruling, Dino Rossi announced that he will not appeal the judge's ruling in the governor's election lawsuit.

MY DISTRICT OFFICE IS OPEN

With session having ended, I've moved my legislative office back to the 12th District for the interim. It is staffed by my legislative assistant, Shiloh Burgess. The district office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday by appointment. If you want to schedule a meeting with me, please contact Shiloh at **(509) 663-9702** or burgess.shiloh@leg.wa.gov. The district office address is **625 Okanogan, Suite 301, Wenatchee, WA 98801**.

Whether I'm in Olympia voting on legislation or here in district attending meetings, I consider it a privilege to represent you and serve you as your state senator. I continue to appreciate this special honor. Have a great June.

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Committees: Labor, Commerce, Research & Development, ranking Republican;
Health & Long-Term Care; Ways & Means; Rules
